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Exploring the World in Comfort®

River Cruises / Ocean Cruises / Expedition Cruises

Since 1997, Viking has been dedicated to creating destination-focused, culturally immersive travel experiences. Their tagline, “Exploring the world in comfort,” reflects their commitment to offering thoughtfully curated journeys across the globe – from Europe to South America, Asia and beyond, as well as closer-to-home destinations like Alaska and the Mississippi River.

Viking’s revolutionary Longship River Cruises debuted in 2012, offering an airy ambiance with plenty of big-ship amenities to 190 guests, and are designed to provide maximum comfort. Their ships carry you to the world’s greatest cities, deliver you to the center of charming towns and villages, while connecting you to your destination. One of the best ways to immerse yourself in new cultures is to explore the world by the river.

In 2015, Viking introduced its first ocean ship with the naming of the 930-guest all-veranda Viking Star. They now boast a fleet of small, all-veranda, modern ocean ships. Each sister ship is engineered at a scale that allows direct access into most ports. Classified by Cruise Critic as “small ships,” the fleet features understated elegance and Scandinavian design.

Their ocean ships offer all veranda staterooms. Their onboard enrichment program brings culture and history to life with guest lecturers, destination

performances, port talks, cooking demonstrations, craft demonstrations, wine tastings and classical & regional musicians.

Viking World Cruises are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to see the world through a wider lens. Uncover fascinating art and architecture around the globe, savor regional delicacies and marvel at the most breathtaking corners of the world. Their extensive itineraries can also provide the gift of the endless discoveries you can make on just one itinerary.



Viking Grand Journeys are carefully curated and combine multiple Viking itineraries to offer you in-depth exploration of one region, from Scandinavia and the Baltic to Southeast Asia and North America. Traverse the world’s lakes and oceans with Viking and learn from world-class guest lecturers, savor regional cuisine and experience some of the most iconic cultural performing art forms around the globe.

Viking Expedition Voyages were launched in 2022 with the arrival of its first vessel, the 378-guest Polar Class Viking Octantis followed by the Viking Octantis, to explore the world’s most remote regions – Antarctica and the Great Lakes. You will learn about your destination from their Viking Resident Scientists and enrichment programs while exploring onshore as well as by sea.

Their arrival to the Great Lakes brings the newest and most modern vessels ever to explore this region of North America. They are an ideal environment to experience a deep connection to nature with vast swaths of protected shoreline and an array of national parks and wilderness areas best explored through kayaking and hiking.

Viking does not try to be all things to all people. There are no children under 18, no inside staterooms, no casinos, no charge for Wi-Fi, no charge for beer or wine at lunch or dinner, no charge for alternative restaurants, no photography sales, no art auctions, no smoking and no formal nights, butlers, or white gloves.

Set sail with Viking on a journey that will enrich your mind – and allow you to explore the world in comfort! The Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel can assist you with your dream destination along with all the benefits of booking a Viking cruise.



Greetings from the Editor

Nancy Alligood, CTC

Be REAL ID Ready by May 7, 2025

On May 7, 2025, U.S. travelers must be **REAL ID** compliant to board domestic flights and access certain federal facilities.

If you are traveling Internationally, you will still need your passport. If you are traveling domestically, you will only need one valid form of identification – either your **REAL ID** Driver's License or another acceptable alternative such as a passport, not both.

The **REAL ID** can be obtained from your local DMV.

New UK Travel Requirement E.T.A.

If you're planning to travel to the United Kingdom anytime soon, a travel caution: Effective January 8th, any U.S. citizen landing at a U.K. airport, even if it is just a layover, will need an E.T.A. — otherwise known as an Electronic Travel Authorization.

And you'll need to get this E.T.A. before you depart the U.S. You can apply online, and it costs under \$13.

Once it's approved, it's valid for two years and good for multiple entries of up to six months in Great Britain.

The important caution once again: you need to get this before you depart, and since the process could take up to 72 hours to complete, last-minute travel to London might be compromised.



Adventures Across Iceland

Linda Waynick

ALEXANDER
+ROBERTS™

Your 7-day adventure begins and ends in Reykjavik. Experience the rugged beauty and traditions of Iceland's northern fjords, exploring fishing ports and pristine black sand beaches. In the remote far north of Iceland, far from city lights, you will have the best chances of seeing the amazing Northern Lights display.

Spend time with farmers and micro-brewers, tasting their products and learning about their lives and traditions.

Delve into Iceland's rich maritime history at the award-winning Herring Era Museum, set in the charming seaside community of Siglufjordur.

Delight in the soothing geothermal waters of the famed Blue Lagoon and Lake Myvatn, set in the remote wilderness of northern Iceland.

This small group guided tour, never more than 16 guests, takes place in January, February and March of 2025 and 2026. You will spend 3 nights in Reykjavik and 3 nights in Akureyri.

For a detailed itinerary, dates and price, call the Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel.



Jewels of Ireland

Sharon Flick



Delight in Ireland's scenic splendor and hidden gems with stays in the charming towns of Kinsale, Dingle, and Donegal on this 13-day tour starting and ending in Dublin.

Visit Dublin Castle on a panoramic tour of the city. Enjoy a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus tour where you visit Dublin's top attractions – Guinness Storehouse, Teeling Distillery, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Jameson Distillery Bow St. Experience or GPO Museum.

Travel to Blarney Castle, climb the winding staircase to kiss its famous stone or enjoy the gardens. Visit Kinsale, a picturesque old fishing town known for art galleries and gourmet food.

Enjoy the bustling, friendly town of Killarney as you continue to Dingle, a quaint seaside town, where you will set out on the Sleah Head Loop, one of Ireland's most beautiful drives through scenic ocean and mountain vistas.

Drive to the magnificent Cliffs of Moher, soaring 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Continue to lively Galway and check out their medieval history.

Continue north to Donegal with several stops along the way. Explore the Giant's Causeway enormous hexagonal columns formed over 60 million years ago. Travel along the scenic Nine Glens of Antrim before arriving in Belfast. Visit Titanic Belfast to explore the story of the doomed ocean liner, built in the local shipyard in 1912.

The Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel will gladly assist you with a detailed itinerary, dates and price for this exciting travel adventure.

At Your Service:

Your Warwick Travel Staff

Warwick Travel has moved to a new location:

Oyster Point Commons
11717 Jefferson Ave., Suite B
Newport News, VA 23606
757-599-3011

Nancy Alligood, CTC
General Manager, Co-Owner,
Newsletter Editor

Janis Belch, CTC
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Amy Hill
Travel Advisor

Dee King
Assistant Manager

Sharon Flick
Travel Advisor

Emily Barker
Business Development/
Marketing Manager

Marion Liffick
Travel Advisor

Linda Waynick
Travel Advisor

Susan Adams
Operations Manager



Switzerland: Europe's Crown Jewel

Amy Hill

TAUCK  WORLD
DISCOVERY

Take scenic beauty to new heights in Switzerland's quaint villages, the Italian Lakes region, lovely Lucerne, the Top of Europe, chic ski resorts and more from grand landmark hotels that cater with service and scenic settings.

Ride aboard a cogwheel train that winds through mountains and meadows up to Europe's highest railroad station, where a private tour and cocktail reception at the Ice Palace of Jungfrauoch awaits.

Board a private funicular in Interlaken for a ride up Harder Kulm, soaring 4,337 ft. high, and have dinner in a castle-like restaurant surrounded by vistas of Elger, Monch, and Jungfrau mountains.

Enjoy a wine tasting as you drink in the scenery aboard a private boat cruise on glacial Lake Lugano, straddling Switzerland and Italy, followed by a savory lunch in a traditional grotto restaurant.

All this and more awaits you on this fabulous 11-day small group journey starting in Geneva and ending in Zurich, June – Sep 2025. The Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel will assist you with a detailed itinerary, dates and prices.

Call the Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel for a detailed itinerary, dates and prices.



Old World Sicily & Malta

Emily Barker

 **collette**
guided by travel

Explore Sicily and Malta, two island paradises nestled amongst the deep blue waves of the Mediterranean on a 12-day Small Group Exploration guided tour. Discover how ancient traditions blend into modern society as you travel along timeless Italian and Maltese towns.

Your adventure begins with a 4-night stay in Sliema, a welcoming Maltese resort town with a lively waterfront promenade. Enjoy a panoramic sailing of Valletta's (UNESCO) Grand Harbour aboard traditional Dghajsa boats.

Hop on a ferry to Sicily and visit the seaside town of Pozzallo for a Sicilian breakfast and a cappuccino coffee. Explore the countryside as you travel on to Ragusa for a 3-night stay.

Take in the rugged landscape of Southeastern Sicily enroute to Siracusa where you will discover the expansive Neapolis, the ancient Greek colony established 27 centuries ago. Then on to Taormina, a charming resort town perched high above the Mediterranean Sea. See Sicily's wilder side on an off-road adventure to Mount Etna (UNESCO), Europe's largest active volcano.

For a detailed itinerary, dates & price, please call the Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel



Ultimate Galapagos Expedition

Janis Belch, CTC



Abercrombie & Kent

Cruise the northern and western routes of the Galapagos in unparalleled luxury aboard the sleek and stylish Encoventura adventure yacht Theory, enjoying the most exclusive guest-to-staff ratio in the region. Encounter the islands' iconic wildlife as A&K's renowned Expedition Team reveals giant tortoises, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, sea lions, penguins and more with a host of exciting snorkeling, kayaking, Zodiac and shore excursions complemented by enriching programming and Relais & Chateaux hospitality onboard.

Your 9-day adventure begins in Guayaquil where you will fly to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galapagos Islands and San Cristobal's main port, hop on a Zodiac for a brisk ride to your luxurious yacht anchored in the bay.

You will visit Genovesa Island, a premier birdwatching destination; Santa Cruz Island, home to bright pink flamingos; Isabella Island, where you will enjoy snorkeling with penguins diving playfully in the water; Fernandina Island, to encounter its sea lion colonies and other diverse species; Rabida Island, considered the geographic center of the Galapagos with its volcanic rock, the most diverse in the archipelago. Disembark at San Cristobal where you will fly to Guayaquil or Quito for your trip home.

For a more detailed itinerary, speak with a Travel Advisor at Warwick Travel who will assist you along with dates and a price for this exciting destination.



Canyon Country Adventure

Marion Liffick

 **GLOBUS**

Your 8-day tour begins in Phoenix and ends in Las Vegas. Traveling North, your first stop is in Sedona, "Arizona's Scenic Sensation". Continuing to Grand Canyon National Park, you will marvel at the spectacular beauty of this extraordinary wonder, which draws more than 5 million worldwide visitors a year. Enjoy a spectacular sunrise or sunset that paints the canyons in glorious desert hues. Explore the Grand Canyon and learn about its geology and how the canyon was carved.

Continue to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park and enjoy a 4-wheel drive backcountry tour with a knowledgeable Navajo guide. Visit Lake Powell where you will learn the history of Antelope Slot Canyon.

Bryce Canyon National Park is next on your list where you will spend time capturing the magnificent contrasts of bright red, yellow and pink pillars called "hoodoos", where centuries of erosion have carved colorful sandstone into thousands of spires, arches and mazes.

Visit Zion National Park, a spectacle of massive stone formations whose colors change with the light of day and the season. Las Vegas is your last stop with an orientation tour of the city.

Contact Warwick Travel for a detailed itinerary, dates and price.



Cruise News



Homeport Cruising from Norfolk - 2025

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE

Caribbean – 8 Day Cruise on the Sunshine, Feb 16; Mar 8 & 22; Apr 5 & 19; May 3, 17 & 31; Jun 14 & 28; Jul 12 & 26; Aug 9 & 23; Sep 6 & 20; Oct 4 & 18; Nov 1, 21 & 29; Dec 19, 2025.

Bahamas – 6 Day Cruise on the Sunshine, Feb 24; Mar 2, 16 & 30; Apr 13 & 27; May 11 & 25; Jun 8 & 22; Sep 28; Oct 26; Nov 9 & 15; Dec 7 & 13, 2025.

Bermuda – 6 Day Cruise on the Sunshine, Jul 6 & 20; Aug 3, 17 & 31; Sep 14; Oct 12, 2025.

Plan your “Wedding at Sea” on the Carnival Sunshine in 2025

Call the Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel for rates and a detailed itinerary on all Norfolk Sailings or for more information on a “Wedding at Sea”.

Ocean Cruises – 2025

AZAMARA CRUISES

Japan Intensive 13-Night Cruise on the Pursuit, Apr 20, 2025, Kobe to Tokyo. Visit Kochi, Hiroshima, Kitakyushu, Niigata, Akita & Aorori, Japan & Busan, South Korea.

CELEBRITY CRUISES

Italy, Greece & Croatia 10-Night Cruise on the Accent, May 16 & Sep 19, 2025, Roundtrip Rome. Visit Rome, Sicily & Naples, Italy; Olympia & Corfu, Greece; Dubrovnik & Split, Croatia & Bar, Montenegro.

CUNARD

Eastbound Transatlantic 7-Night Crossing on the Queen Mary 2, May 5, 2025, New York to Southampton, England. Blissful sea days are yours to spend however you please with many onboard events.

DISNEY CRUISES

Bahamian 5-Night Cruise on the Magic, June 22, 2025, Roundtrip Port Canaveral. Visit Nassau, Bahamas; Disney Lookout Cay at Lighthouse Point & Disney Castaway Cay.

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

Canada & New England, 7-Night Cruise on the Zuiderdam, Sep 13 & Oct 4, 2025, Boston to Quebec City. Visit Maine, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island & Quebec.

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

Alaska & Hawaii 12-Night Cruise on the Sun, June 27, 2025, Vancouver, BC to Honolulu. Visit Maui, Kauai, Hawaii & Oahu.

OCEANIA CRUISES

Iceland to England 12-Night Cruise on the Marina, Aug 12, 2025, Reykjavik to Southampton. Visit Iceland, Denmark, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, France & UK.

PRINCESS CRUISES

Alaska 7-Night Inside Passage Cruise on the Grand Princess, Aug 19, 2025, Roundtrip Vancouver. Visit Juneau, Skagway & Ketchikan along with Scenic Cruising of Endicott Arm & Dawes Glacier.

REGENT CRUISES

Icons of Europe 10-Night Cruise on the Seven Seas Voyager, June 27, 2025, Lisbon to London. Visit Lisbon, Portugal; La Coruna & Santander, Spain; Biarritz, Bordeaux, Lorient & Paris, France & UK.

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

Bermuda 5-Night Cruise on the Vision of the Seas, May – Oct 2025, Roundtrip Baltimore. Visit the Royal Naval Dockyard and enjoy seeing beautiful Bermuda.

SILVERSEA CRUISES

Transatlantic 13-Night Cruise on the Silver Ray, Nov 19, 2025, Lisbon to Ft. Lauderdale. Visit Lisbon & Funchal, Madeira, Portugal & Bermuda.

WINDSTAR CRUISES

Myths & Marvels of the Aegean 8-Night Cruise on the Star Legend, Oct 14 & Oct 22, 2025, Roundtrip Athens. Visit ports in Patmos, Kusadasi, & Bodrum; Rhodes, Heraklion & Mykonos, Greece.

River Cruises – 2025

AMA WATERWAYS

Grand Rhine & Dutch Canals 14-Night River Cruise, Jul – Dec 2025, Amsterdam to Basel. Visit Amsterdam, Hellevoetsluis, Ghent, Brussels, Antwerp, Dordrecht, Dusseldorf, Rudesheim, Ludwigshafen, Strasbourg, Breisach & Basel.

AMERICAN CRUISE LINE

Columbia River Gorge 6-Night River Cruise, Apr, Oct & Nov 2025, Roundtrip Portland. Visit Hood River & The Dalles, Oregon and Kalama, Washington.

AVALON WATERWAYS

German Grandeur 9-Night River Cruise, May 14 & Oct 7, 2025, Basel to Nuremberg. Visit Basel, Switzerland; Strasbourg, France; Breisach, Rudesheim, Frankfurt, Wurzburg, Bamberg & Strasbourg, Germany.

TAUCK RIVER CRUISES

Heart of the Danube: Bavaria to Budapest 7-Night River Cruise, May, Jul, Aug, & Oct 2025, Munich to Budapest. Visit Munich & Passau, Germany; Grein, Durnstein & Vienna, Austria; Bratislava, Slovakia & Budapest Hungary.

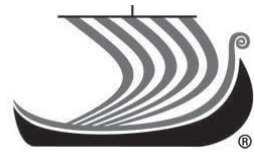
UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES

Portugal, Spain & The Douro River Valley 10-Night River Cruise, Apr – Nov 2025, Porto to Lisbon. Visit Porto, Pinhao, Pociinho, Barca d’ Alva & Braga, Portugal; Vega de Terron, Spain.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

Croatia’s Dalmatian Coast & Montenegro 7-Night Expedition Cruise on the Orion, Aug 16 & Aug 23, 2025, Roundtrip Split. Visit Korcula, Dubrovnik, Komiza, Hvar, Sibenik & Zadar, Croatia, Kotor, Montenegro.

Unless otherwise noted, fares are cruise only, per person rates based on double occupancy; subject to availability and capacity controlled by the cruise line. Amenities apply. Government fees, taxes and airfare are not included unless specifically stated in offer.



VIKING



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Explore Fascinating Destinations

Explore Cultural Traditions

Explore Regional Culinary Treasures

Explore All Inclusive Value

Explore All Seven Continents

Your Choice Sale: 3 fantastic options on a wide range of itineraries

River Voyages

Romantic Danube 8-Day Cruise, May – Nov 2025, Budapest to Regensburg. Visit Budapest, Hungary; Vienna & Krems, Austria; Passau & Regensburg, Germany.

Paris & The Heart of Normandy 8-Day Cruise, Mar – Nov 2025, Roundtrip Paris. Visit Paris, La Roche-Guyon, Vernon, Rouen, Normandy Beaches, Les Andelys & Le Pecq, France.

Rhine Getaway 8 Day Cruise, Mar – Nov 2025, Basel to Amsterdam. Visit Basel, Switzerland; Breisach, Strasbourg & Speyer, France; Rudesheim, Koblenz & Cologne, Germany; Kinderdijk & Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Passage to Eastern Europe 11-Day Cruise, Mar – Nov 2025, Bucharest to Budapest. Visit Bucharest, Romania; Ruse & Vidin, Bulgaria; Golubac & Belgrade, Serbia; Osijek, Croatia; Kalocsa & Budapest, Hungary.

Ocean Voyages

Mediterranean Odyssey 13-Day Cruise, Jan – Oct 2025, Venice to Barcelona. Visit Venice, Naples, Rome, Florence/Pisa, Italy; Corfu, Greece; Monte Carlo, Monaco; Marseille, France; Barcelona, Spain.

Italy, The Adriatic & Greece 15-Day Cruise, Mar – Dec 2025, Rome to Athens. Visit Rome, Naples, Messina, Crotone, Bari & Venice, Italy; Sibenik, Split & Dubrovnik, Croatia; Kotor, Montenegro; Corfu, Olympia & Athens, Greece.

Viking Homelands 15 Day Cruise, Apr – Sep 2025, Bergen to Stockholm. Visit Bergen, Eidfjord, Stavanger & Oslo, Norway; Alborg, Copenhagen & Bornholm, Denmark; Berlin, Germany; Gdansk, Poland; Tallin, Estonia; Stockholm, Sweden.

Malta, Morocco & The Mediterranean 16-Day Cruise, Jan – Dec 2025, Roundtrip Barcelona. Visit Spain, France, Corsica, Italy, Malta, Tunisia, Algeria, & Morocco.

Expedition Voyages

Niagara & The Great Lakes 8-Day Cruise, Apr & May 2025, Toronto to Milwaukee. Visit Ontario, Canada; Detroit, Alpena & Mackinac Island, Michigan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Antarctic Explorer 13-Day Cruise, Jan, Feb, Nov & Dec 2025, Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. Cruise through Drake Passage & Cape Horn; explore Antarctica.

Into The Northwest Passage 13-Day Cruise, Jul – Sep 2025, Roundtrip Nuuk. Visit Nuuk, Ilulissat, Uummannaq, Greenland; Pond Inlet, Bylot Island, Beechey Island, Dundas Harbour, in Nunavut, Canada.

Great Lakes Collection 15-Day Cruise, May – Aug 2025, Toronto to Duluth. Visit Canada, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin & Minnesota including Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan & Lake Superior.

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Warwick Travel Service, Inc.



Gerry's Adventures

Gerry Siekirski

2025
OCTOBER 1ST
CANADIAN ROCKIES

Join Gerry & Zee on a 9-day Rocky Mountaineer train/tour adventure of the Canadian Rockies. Enjoy 2 days in Vancouver, 2 days on the Rocky Mountaineer train with "Gold Leaf" service, 2 days in Lake Louise at the famous Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, 2 days in Fairmont's Banff Springs hotel which is a landmark known as Canada's "Castle in the Rockies" and 1 day in Calgary in the Delta Hotel downtown location.

Everything is included onboard the train, Breakfast included daily - most tours like a tour of Vancouver, the Ice Explorer on Athabasca Glacier, the Skywalk in Banff, a gondola ride in Banff and some dinners included. You will have the option to include Victoria with Butchart Gardens for a pre tour and stay longer in Calgary. Air is not included.

Price: \$6,697 per person (double occupancy). A nonrefundable deposit is due now to hold your space.

We currently have 17 couples deposited and only 3 rooms still available. If interested contact Gerry for a daily itinerary.

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**Warwick Travel Advisors are
passionate about travel.**

**In 2025, we will celebrate 50 years
serving our loyal customers/guests
with their travel needs.**



Agent Spotlight:

Dee King

Dee is celebrating 30 years of working in the travel industry. She was formally with Sue Mayberry Travel in Williamsburg for 15 years and has been with Warwick Travel for 15 years.

She is Assistant Manager of Warwick Travel and a member of Warwick Travel's Million Dollar Club. Originally from Turkey, she has called Virginia her home since 1992. Having lived nine years in England, The Netherlands and Germany, she loves selling Europe and the Mediterranean. And, of course, selling her home country is always a special treat. Just ask her about the fascinating city of Istanbul and her hometown Izmir, the pearl of the Aegean - her face lights up!

Dee is a Caribbean Destination Specialist. She has cruised the Eastern, Western, Southern Caribbean, Panama Canal, Bermuda, and Canada/New England. She also specializes in escorted and customized vacations throughout Europe and the United States including Hawaii and Alaska as well as deluxe train travel with Rocky Mountaineer and America by Rail. Dee is also a specialist in corporate travel.

Warwick Travel is fortunate and very appreciative to have Dee on their staff. She loves working with her clientele and will happily share pictures of her three grandchildren who are the 'apples of her eye'.

Please give Dee a call for any travel assistance: 757-599-3011.

Clients Corner

**Karen & Bobby Scarsdale
Yorktown, VA**

If you're looking for a taste of the wide-open spaces of Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota, sign up for this Cowboy Holiday!! And no roughing it involved!! All the accommodations were A1, as was the transportation. A grand time was spent viewing the wonders of Yellowstone, The Grand Tetons, Mt Rushmore, the Badlands and much more!! Thank you, Linda Waynick.

**Patra Johnson & Ellen Banks
Newport News, VA**

That was the best trip ever! Thank you for planning it. I had a great time visiting the town where I was raised. Paris was nice but I could not live there. My sister was overwhelmed but thoroughly enjoyed every moment! She thought she had gone to heaven when we went to the Louvre! Monet's house was beautiful! Thank you, Amy Hill, for everything!

Morocco, a friendly and fascinating destination



By Nancy B. Alligood, CTC, Warwick Travel Service

Morocco, located in the Northwestern corner of Africa, borders the Atlantic Ocean to the West, the Mediterranean Sea to the North (separated from Spain by the Strait of Gibraltar), Algeria to the East and Western Sahara to the South.

North Africa is very topographically diverse, and thus replete with stunning natural wonders. In Morocco alone, travelers can visit the towering red river canyons of Todgha Gorges and the charming Berber villages of the fertile Ourika River Valley with its panoramic views, apple orchards and walnut groves — as well as the snowy summit of Jbel Toubkal in the high Atlas Mountains, the majestic Ouzoud

Waterfalls and the slopes of the Sahara.

Morocco is a friendly Muslim kingdom, exceptional in the Arab world for its open mindedness towards both the Jewish people and Westerners. Even the traditional Berber artisans living remotely in the Atlas Mountains are known to share tea with foreign travelers. A testament to Morocco's relative liberalism is the fact that women are not required to cover from head to toe as in other Muslim countries.

The official language is Arabic, with Berber dialects widely spoken in rural areas. French, Spanish and English are also widely spoken. Most of Morocco, particularly along the coast, has a typical Mediterranean climate, with mild,

wet winters and hot, dry summers.

Morocco is a constitutional monarchy. The current king, Mohammed VI, is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. He ascended to the throne in 1999 upon the death of his father, King Hassan II.

Agriculture forms the basis of the Moroccan economy as well as other industries, including cork, timber, fishing, mining and manufacturing. Its main trading partners are France, Spain, Italy, Germany, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

Rabat is the capital city and is one of the most traditional places in the entire country. Many visitors pass by the coastal city of Rabat and head to other cities such as Marrakech and Fez. While those cities are wonderful and are certainly worth visiting, Rabat offers visitors an entirely different perspective in Morocco that shouldn't be missed.

Casablanca is the largest city in Morocco and the country's economic and business center.

Fez is the second largest city. This 13th-century city is an imperial city of long-lasting multi-cultural history that reserves unexpected surprises for its visitors.

Marrakech or Marrakech is the fourth-largest city. It is a major tourist destination, known for its vibrant culture, architecture and cuisine.

Two of the distinct experiences in Morocco are those of the intricate cities and the expansive desert. In the old cities (medinas) of the imperial capitals like Fez and Marrakech daily life pushes through narrow streets and cool palaces hide behind mysterious portals. The Sahara Desert is endless sand and sky, uncomplicated but powerful.

The lively, sprawling markets characteristic of North Africa and the Middle East, called *souks*, are full of bustling and bargaining. They can be difficult for tourists to navigate without a local guide. However, the crowds and mazes of the *souks* do not deter tour-



COURTESY OF NANCY ALLIGOOD

Skills of the craftsmen are evident in the intricate details of these Moroccan trays.

ists in Morocco; some people travel to Marrakech or Fez with an empty suitcase just so they can "shop until they drop" at the *souks*!

Among other goods, one can buy jeweled glassware, ornate teapots, incense, and aromatic spices, traditional woven Moroccan carpets and hand-made Berber rugs, dazzling Arabic lamps and lanterns, fine hand painted ceramics and leather goods from local Moroccan tanneries.

Top off a visit to the *souks* with some famed Moroccan street food — perhaps freshly baked, fluffy bread called *khobz* or *brochette*, the Moroccan version of a kebab — and wash it down with some refreshing Moroccan mint tea.

Morocco is one of America's oldest friends in the Middle East and North Africa and is recognized today as a major non-NATO ally. Since 1957, the U.S. government and the Moroccan government have worked together to make substantial improvements in the lives of Moroccan citizens.

With so much contrast, a week or two in Morocco can feel like a trip around the world and back, in a good way. My visit was a fascinating destination.

Contact a travel advisor to guide and assist you with your travel arrangements, from the beginning to the end of your journey. ◀

Nancy B. Alligood, CTC is general manager/owner of Warwick Travel Service, Inc. and can be reached at 757-599-3011 or by email at n_alligood@warwicktravel.com.

To travel is to *Live!*

—Hans Christian Anderson

48 YEARS SERVING THE PENINSULA

From left to right: Marion Liffick, Amy Hill, Dee King, Sharon Flick, Emily Barker, Janis Belch, Linda Waynick and Susan Adams. Front: Nancy Alligood and Gerry Siekierski.

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You're Invited!

A Travel Experience Evening
with Warwick Travel

**Tauck – Viking Cruises – Travel Guard
Regent Cruises – ALG Vacations
Norwegian Cruise Line – Silversea Cruises**

April 30, 2025
5:30 – 8:00pm

James River Country Club
1500 Country Club Road
Newport News, VA 23606

RSVP by April 16, 2025
(757) 599-3011

Seating is limited

Join Warwick Travel!

**For Lunch and Learn on Alaska Cruises
Princess Cruises**

March 19, 2025
12:00 noon

VA Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
11850 Merchants Walk
Newport News VA 23606

RSVP by March 7, 2025
(757) 599-3011

Seating is limited